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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 28
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of an appeal by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation addressed to the parliaments of all countries, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, concerning the missile and bomber strikes carried out by NATO against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

APPEAL BY THE FEDERATION COUNCIL OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF ALL COUNTRIES, THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION, THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

On 24 March 1999, combined military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) carried out missile and bomber strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. There have been casualties among the population and many civilian facilities have been damaged. Plans are being made for new, more powerful strikes. NATO is attempting in this way to compel a sovereign and independent State - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - to change its internal governmental and constitutional structure and to force it to accept the deployment in its territory of foreign forces, namely the forces of NATO.

This is a blow to the foundations of the existing international order and the rule of law and a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the universally accepted norms and principles of international law. Attempts to justify these missile and bomber strikes by referring to "the prevention of a humanitarian catastrophe" are utterly without foundation.

The experience of recent decades, including that of Europe, shows that attempts by military blocs to use force to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States have yielded nothing except a widening of the sphere of conflict and new sufferings for the people. Nothing whatsoever in international law provides a basis for conduct of this kind.

Today NATO presumes to judge and punish Yugoslavia, but tomorrow the threat may be directed against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any other country, which may find itself the target of the use or threat of force as a result of the arbitrary and unilateral decision of one or another group of States seeking to achieving some specific aim.

In essence, the North Atlantic alliance has usurped the power of the United Nations Security Council. NATO has even violated its own Charter, which authorizes the use of force by the alliance only in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The present unilateral action by NATO runs counter to an entire series of decisions and measures adopted by the Contact Group, OSCE and the United Nations, on the basis of which determined efforts have been made in recent months to bring about a settlement of the Kosovo crisis by political means.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation underscores the special responsibility of the parliaments of the member countries of North Atlantic Treaty Organization for their de facto endorsement

of this act of aggression by NATO against a sovereign State Member of the United Nations.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls upon the parliaments of all countries, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to recognize all the grave consequences of this armed aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which may become irreversible and result in the destruction of a world order that has been built up by sacrifice over many generations.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation ppeals to parliamentarians to spare no effort - before it is too late - to put an immediate end to this military and political madness, to prevent the aggressors from crossing a fateful threshold, and to revert to the search for a political settlement of the Kosovo crisis.

Moscow
26 March 1999

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 29 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 24 March 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 23 and 26 March 1999.

On 23 March 1999, one Turkish aircraft of unknown type entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing at 2114 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, from where it departed at 2139 hours on the same day, exiting towards the Ankara FIR.

On 26 March 1999, 16 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force (12 F-16, two C-130, one C-160 and one other aircraft of unknown type) entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The 12 F-16 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting towards the Ankara FIR.

The two C-130 and one C-160 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying also over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

The aircraft of unknown type violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of the Cape of Apostolos Andreas before exiting towards the Ankara FIR.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time are in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like, once more, to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 and 1218 (1998), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 64
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 30 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement dated 27 March 1999 by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 24 March 1999, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), having commenced rocket and bomb attacks, unleashed a war against a sovereign State - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Since the attempt by Yugoslavia to counteract armed aggressive separatism in its own territory was the reason for the bombardment, it is undeniable that the use of force by NATO is an act of aggression that blatantly violates the Charter of the United Nations and generally recognized principles and norms of international law. That day has become a dark day in the history of Europe: through the fault of NATO, the continent is on the verge of the most serious military and political crisis in recent decades. The threat of a large-scale military conflict in the Balkans, into which many States will be drawn, is becoming more real with each passing day.

The military operations against Yugoslavia, which were undertaken by the North Atlantic Alliance without approval by the Security Council, are destroying the entire system of international security based on the authority of the United Nations, discrediting the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and clearly demonstrating that the rocket and bomb diplomacy of NATO, inspired by the United States of America, represents a real threat to peace and stability in Europe and throughout the world.

In spite of the hypocritical statements by NATO leaders, it is obvious that the armed assault against Yugoslavia will not avert, but will only worsen the humanitarian catastrophe in south-eastern Europe and cause the deaths of civilians and enormous destruction. This madness must be halted immediately.

The State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly strongly condemns the aggression by NATO and expresses its solidarity with the peoples of fraternal Yugoslavia. In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has the right of individual or collective self-defence. Accordingly, it is entitled to defend itself against aggression by all available means.

The armed attack against Yugoslavia was carried out in spite of firm opposition by the Russian Federation and the obligations undertaken by NATO member States and laid down in OSCE instruments and the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The State Duma declares that it considers the aggression against a friendly State - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - a serious threat to the security of the Russian Federation. There are no guarantees that other States will not be the next target of State terrorism on the part of NATO. There are more than enough pretexts for aggression in the current situation that can be thought up.

The most serious lessons should be learned from the events concerning Yugoslavia. The State Duma is confident that the peoples of the Russian Federation will find the strength to bring about the rebirth of the Russian State, which will be able to rebuff all forms of aggression and diktat and ensure, in close cooperation with other countries, stable peace and reliable security on the basis of the generally recognized principles and forms of international law.

The State Duma firmly demands the immediate halting of the military strikes against Yugoslavia and the acts of violence in Kosovo and Metohija and insists on the resumption without delay of political negotiations in order to find ways to resolve the conflict through exclusively peaceful means on the basis of the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia as well as full observance of international legal norms with regard to the protection of human rights and the rights of national minorities. The State Duma appeals to the Parliaments of the States of the world, including the Parliaments of the member States of NATO, calling upon them to advocate the immediate halting of the bombardment of Yugoslavia, prevent a further increase in the number of victims, and bring about a return to the use of civilized political means for settling the crisis in the Balkans.

In light of the situation resulting from NATO aggression, the State Duma also deems it necessary for all the State government bodies of the Russian Federation to draw up a series of measures aimed at enhancing the defence capability of the Russian Federation, expanding international cooperation with friendly countries and reviewing relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The State Duma supports the decisions taken by the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation, under which all official relations between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have been suspended until the cessation of the military operations conducted by NATO against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the main military representative of the Russian Federation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has been recalled, participation by the Russian Federation in the Partnership for Peace programme and the operation of NATO information centres in the territory of the Russian Federation have been suspended, and the Russian contingent in the stabilization force in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been removed from subordination to the NATO military command.

The State Duma recommends that the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation should take the following measures:

1. Taking into account the situation resulting from the war unleashed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against a sovereign State - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - to make the necessary additions to the national security concept of the Russian Federation and speed up the formulation and adoption of the Russian Federation's military doctrine;

2. To put forward, on behalf of the Russian Federation, a broad-based peace initiative aimed at immediately halting the rocket and bomb attacks

against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and resuming the political negotiations to settle the crisis;

3. To consider the question of the advisability of the maintenance in force for the Russian Federation of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in view of the blatant violation by NATO of the provisions of that document, and to recall temporarily the permanent representative of the Russian Federation to NATO;

4. To demand the holding of a special session of the General Assembly to consider the question of aggression against a State Member of the United Nations and the blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations by the member States of NATO;

5. To take the position that the unilateral actions by the member States of NATO in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and in circumvention of the Security Council constitute a rejection of Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998), which provide, inter alia, for the introduction of sanctions against Yugoslavia;

6. To raise the question of the conducting by the International Criminal Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia of an investigation into crimes linked to the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

7. To consider the question of providing the necessary assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter;

8. To propose the urgent holding of consultations with the heads of State who did not support NATO aggression against Yugoslavia in order to coordinate political and diplomatic measures aimed at halting the war in the Balkans;

9. To address a message to the non-aligned movement and regional international organizations in connection with the start of the war in the Balkans;

10. To take measures to increase the combat readiness of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and draw up clear plans for mobilization and operations;

11. To take measures to provide humanitarian assistance to the peoples of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, render assistance to the refugees and victims of the war, and respect the desire of citizens of the Russian Federation to give voluntarily humanitarian and other assistance to the peoples of fraternal Yugoslavia;

12. To step up work on bringing about the return of the funds illegally taken out of the Russian Federation and to allocate them to support national industry, first of all, the branches that ensure the defence capability and security of the Russian Federation;

13. To speed up the process of unifying the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus; and take measures to bring about closer integration of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

14. To step up consultations with interested member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on enhancing the effectiveness of the system of collective security in light of the events in the Balkans;

15. To withdraw temporarily the draft federal law submitted to the State Duma on the ratification of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the START-II Treaty);

16. To adjust, taking into account the military operations undertaken by NATO in the Balkans, the position concerning international treaties affecting the defence capability and security of the Russian Federation.